[Urging the Mayor and City Departments to Develop a Plan to Address High Levels of COVID-19 Cases in the Latinx Community]

Resolution urging Mayor London N. Breed, the Department of Public Health, the Human Services Agency, and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to adopt five specific actions to help reduce the number of COVID-19 cases in the Mission District and within the Latinx community, including an extensive education and outreach effort, a robust basic-needs security program, the development of a rapid response system for confirmed cases, increased testing capacity in the neighborhood, and a plan to relocate unhoused Mission residents and those living in congregate settings who are vulnerable to hotel rooms where they can safely isolate.

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel virus that has been rapidly spreading worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The virus, which was originally detected in December 2019, has reached pandemic proportions with more than 3,000,000 confirmed cases that have resulted in over 200,000 deaths around the world; and

WHEREAS, On Monday, March 16, 2020, Mayor London Breed announced a public health order requiring all San Francisco residents to shelter in place to slow the spread of novel coronavirus in the community, requiring all businesses to cease operations except for those deemed essential businesses, and directing people experiencing symptoms to isolate and self-quarantine; and

WHEREAS, As of Tuesday, April 28, 2020, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) has reported at least 1,468 confirmed cases in San Francisco, resulting in 23 deaths; and
WHEREAS, Of the 1,468 cases, DPH reports that 32% of cases are identified as Latinx, yet the Latinx community comprises only 15% of the City’s total population; and

WHEREAS, Area code 94110, where the Mission District is located, a historically Latinx neighborhood, has 182 positive cases, the highest number of positive COVID-19 cases of any area code in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Current economic and social conditions, coupled with the extreme cost of living in San Francisco has forced many Latinx people, particularly newly arrived immigrants, into congregate living settings, often where multiple families share one or two rooms, thus unable to safely isolate, quarantine, and practice prescribed social distancing measures; and

WHEREAS, Large numbers of immigrant and Latinx people work in essential industries such as food cultivation and production, in retail selling essential goods like food and hardware supplies, and in transportation, and are unable to shelter in place, increasing odds of exposure; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is home to nearly 280,000 immigrants, who comprise nearly 36% of the City’s population with an estimated 35% of the city’s immigrant population being undocumented; and

WHEREAS, Immigrants are woven into the fabric of San Francisco, they are our friends, family members, and neighbors, they open businesses, work in our shops and touch the lives of every San Franciscan every single day; and

WHEREAS, The current White House Administration has made it a central focus to restrict the rights of immigrants and their access to COVID-19 relief, and has created a climate of fear and distrust where immigrants question whether they should seek assistance and medical care; and

WHEREAS, Amid a global health pandemic, the inclusion of immigrants is critical to “flattening the curve,” according to public health guidance that indicates that the health and
well-being of every member of the community is necessary to ensure the health of the entire
country; and

WHEREAS, Like all Americans impacted by this public health crisis, immigrants also
have an urgent need for health care, economic relief, food assistance, housing security, and
inclusion in all COVID-19 response and recovery efforts in cities, states, and nationally; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is a Sanctuary city, in acknowledgement of the
contributions immigrants make to our city and in affirmation of the fact that all humans
deserve to live free from persecution, uncertainty, and terror; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco created Healthy San Francisco to ensure that all residents,
regardless of immigration status, have full access to health care, to express that not only does
everyone deserve to live free but also deserves health care; and

WHEREAS, Patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 have been discharged
into congregate settings where they are unable to isolate and risk exposing family members
and all other residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
urges Mayor London Breed to direct the Department of Public Health, Human Services
Agency, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing and any other relevant city
departments to develop a five-point plan to address the disparate impacts of the COVID-19
public health crisis in the Mission District and within the Latinx community; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this plan include, at minimum, the following components:
a communications and outreach program specifically tailored to reach the Mission District and
the Latinx community, which includes adequate translation and culturally competent
messaging that explains proper social distancing protocols, and clarifies that city resources
are available regardless of legal status and that there are no “public charge” consequences to
accessing services; a robust food & basic-needs security program that uses gift cards and
other financial assistance tools to allow for flexible purchase at local markets and shops to support families financially impacted by COVID-19; a rapid referral and response system to monitor and assist COVID-19 positive patients and their families in being able to properly quarantine and isolate as quickly and safely possible; increasing COVID-19 testing capacity in the Mission by providing trusted community clinics and healthcare providers that serve this neighborhood with additional testing and personal protective equipment; a commitment to prioritize community members of the Mission District who are seniors, have chronic health conditions, are unhoused or otherwise vulnerable, and who cannot properly shelter in place due to their present living circumstances for hotel rooms where they can safely isolate or quarantine.
Resolution urging Mayor London N. Breed, the Department of Public Health, the Human Services Agency, and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to adopt five specific actions to help reduce the number of COVID-19 cases in the Mission District and within the Latinx community, including an extensive education and outreach effort, a robust basic-needs security program, the development of a rapid response system for confirmed cases, increased testing capacity in the neighborhood, and a plan to relocate unhoused Mission residents and those living in congregate settings who are vulnerable to hotel rooms where they can safely isolate.

May 05, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

File No. 200429

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/5/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board